

(Sri M. H. JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN)

(b) the action taken by the Kadri Police on this incident which took place three days ago ;

(c) the names of the three autorikshaw owners and drivers who assaulted the girl ;

(d) of them, the name of the person who is absconding and the root cause for the assault ?

SRI VEERENDRA PATIL (Chief Minister)

(a) One Sri Narayana is alleged to have assaulted.

(b) A case in Cr. No. 184/70 U/Ss. 447 and 323, IPC, has been registered. Of the three accused, two were arrested and vigorous efforts are being made to apprehend the one absconding accused.

(c) One Autorikshaw bearing No. MYS 6550 is involved in this case and it belongs to one Sri Mathew. The name of the Driver is Sri Prakasa.

(d) The accused Sri Narayana is absconding and the case is under investigation.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Re : Publication of Book "Durgah Banda Nawaz is a Hindu Temple"

SRI S. RUDRAPPA (Chitapur):—Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Chief Minister to the situation that has arisen in Hyderabad Karnatak area as a result of publication of a book entitled "Durgah Banda Nawaz is a Hindu Temple."

SRI V. N. PATIL (Humnabal):—Has it come to the notice of the Hon. Chief Minister that the mischievous publication of the book named "Durga Banda Nawaz is a Hindu Temple" has created great anxiety and disharmony in that area ?

SRI G. CHANDRAKANTH (Bidar):—Is it right for the Hon. Member to make a lecture and that too, before Government make a statement ?

SRI MANIK RAO PATIL (Deputy Minister for Home):—Sri, the attention of Government has been drawn to the publication of the book entitled "Durgah Banda Nawaz is a Hindu Temple" by Itihasa Abhyasak Mandal, Gulbarga. Sriyuths Ramash K. Babaladkar and

Anil are its authors. In this book, an attempt has been made to trace the historical development of the building and to show that "Durgah Banda Nawaz" is a Hindu Temple.

The statement contained in this book and opinions expressed therein are being examined, to determine whether it has the effect of promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, language or it is otherwise prejudicial to maintenance of harmony between different religions, racial or language groups or castes or communities.

SRI V. N. PATIL:- If you go through the statement of the Hon. Deputy minister, you will find that it is self-contradictory. In the first para he has stated that an attempt has been made in this book to trace the historical development of the building to show that "Durgah Banda Nawaz" is a Hindu Temple. That means that the Deputy Minister has come to the conclusion that it is a Hindu Temple and that he does not contemplate any action. In the second para of the statement, he states that the statements contained in this book and opinions expressed therein are being examined. Who are the persons that are examined? What is the machinery which is examining the statements and opinions contained in the book? If the Government feels that there are historical antecedents, what is the need for the Home Ministry to examine to find out where there is anything irrelevant and subversive in the Book to create hatred between communities. I want to read one passage that has been used in the book.

SRI G. CHANDRAKANTH:- I rise to a point of order. I wish to know whether reading from the book can be allowed?

MR. SPEAKER:- Sri V. N. Patil may give just a gist of the passage he intends to read instead of reading the passage itself in the interest of economy of time.

SRI G. CHANDRAKANTH:- Reading a passage torn from the context is an unhealthy precedent. He is leaving certain portions.

MR. SPEAKER:- I have asked Sri Patil to give a summary of the passage.

SRI V. N. PATIL:- I want the direction of the Chair to quote the relevant passage. I want the protection of the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER:- Reading of a passage is permissible if it is a sort of a quotation. Let the Hon. Member give only a summary.

SRI V. N. PATIL:- I am producing this book from which I am reading.

MR. SPEAKER:- The Rule does not contemplate any question and answer on calling Attention Notice and the statement. As a matter of fact, in order to help the Members, I shall permit one or two clarifications. If that develops in to a debate the purpose of the Rule is defeated. Sri Patil has to realise that position.

SRI BOLA RAGHURAM SHETTY:- Sri Patil is persisting to quote.

SRI V. N. PATIL:- I do not like this provocation and disturbance when I am on my legs.

MR. SPEAKER:- Sri Patil should not read from the book.

SRI K. H. PATIL:- If under Rule 304, my friend has made reference to a para from a book, and he is prepared to produce that book, cannot the ruling be changed?

MR. SPEAKER:- the hon. Member may go through the Rule once again and verify whether it applies to private members.

SRI V. N. PATIL:- Not only there is provocation of Hindus in this book saying that this is a Hindu temple but also there is an appeal to the Hindu community to dig the Durgah to bring out the Hindu temple. This creates hatred between the two communities. What I am interested in is communal harmony. Even a small spark will kindle the fire and then when once it is kindled it will be very difficult to extinguish it.

2-30 P.M.

MR. SPEAKER:- Hon'ble Member is making a speech now. The Chief Minister has understood him and he will reply. Hon'ble Chief Minister must have gone through this book.

SRI V. N. PATIL:- My question is, has the Government received any representation from different political organisations, social organisations and religious institutions to ban this book which is creating hatred between the two communities and which is creating fear in the minds of Muslim community that their Durgah be will dug and destroyed. The next question is, what action the Government contemplates to take to ban this book?

SRI VEERENDRA PATIL (Chief Minister):- It is true that we received some representations with regard to the book that the hon'ble Member is referring to. Some members met me in a delegation when I had been

to Gulbarga last time and I had a detailed discussion with them. Also I had a detailed discussion with the Deputy Commissioner, the Divisional Commissioner and the Police Authorities. I am very happy to say that our local officers have taken prompt action and they referred this matter to Government. In fact, I caught hold of a copy of the book and I brought that book here and immediately asked our Home Secretary to get it examined in consultation with the Law Department. On this occasion I would like to make a humble suggestion and that is that whatever action Government proposes to take, must be backed by legal sanction. It is very easy for anybody to say that this book should be straightway banned, but as Government I want to take action which is based on firm grounds. That is why we are actively considering in the Law Department what action we could take. I am awaiting the advice of the Law Department. As soon as the Law Department tenders advice, in the light of that, whatever action is necessary to be taken in this behalf, we will not hesitate to take.

With regard to the other question, what effect this book had in the mind of the people, particularly the minority community, and what steps the Government took in order to maintain communal harmony, I have only to say that although there was a little tension after the publication of this book our local officers acted promptly and gave all protection and consolation to the minority community with the result that whatever was feared would happen after the publication of the book did not actually happen. Nothing has happened; on the other hand our officers have taken all precautions with the result there is perfect communal harmony in Gulbarga. So far as banning the book and taking action against the publishers of the book is concerned, that is being actively considered here in consultation with the Law Department and on the basis of the advice of the Law Department we will go ahead.

SRI H. SIDDAVEERAPPA:—I am glad to learn that the Leader of the House has taken prompt action, but I would like to say that time is the very essence in this because you cannot stop the sale of the book and the reading of the book by people till you actually ban it and for that you seem to have some difficulty till you get the advice of the Law Department. My suggestion is that the matter may be decided as early as possible.

SRI VEERENDRA PATIL:—I agree with the hon. Member Sri Siddaveerappa. It is not at all our intention to somehow or the other, drag on this issue and ask the Law Department to give their advice leisurely. I wanted to know who is the original author of this book. I do not know who he is, but I am told this is not the first book of this author and that he has written several such other books. He has also written a book stating that once upon a time Taj Mahal also was a Hindu Temple. That is why I said that the question of the

(Sri VEERENDAA PATIL)

action to be taken against this book has to be examined by the Law Department. The very fact that we have referred the matter to the Law Department shows our anxiety to see that whatever action is necessary to be taken should be taken in order to maintain communal harmony and we will not hesitate to take that action.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER:—Now this subject is closed. The next item is discussion on scarcity conditions in the State. Before we go to that item I have to make one suggestion for the consideration of the House. The next item after the discussion of the scarcity conditions is the consideration of the Supplementary demands.

SRI K. H. PATIL: We have not received any report of the Business Advisory Committee about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Two Subjects were placed before the Business Advisory Committee. The first item was discussion on the scarcity condition and the second item was discussion of the supplementary demands. I have taken care to follow the same order. Probably this discussion will last today and tomorrow. Before this business is over, I shall call a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee with regard to allotment of time for the work to be taken up thereafter.

As regards the supplementary demands, Hon. Members will note that a major portion of the supplementary demands, nearly Rs. 2 crores is in respect of scarcity works. Therefore my suggestion to Hon. Members is that while participating in the discussion on the supplementary demands they can speak on the scarcity conditions. Therefore, in order to avoid duplication of the discussion, the discussion on the scarcity conditions may be closed now we may take up the discussion of the supplementary demands and during that discussion Members can as well speak on scarcity conditions because a major portion of the supplementary demands, namely Rs. 2 crores, is for scarcity works, this year.

All that the members require in that they should have a chance to speak about scarcity conditions. They can speak about scarcity conditions while speaking on the Supplementary Estimates.

SRI AZIZ SAIT :— Sir, the Supplementary Demands are not restricted to famine conditions only, but they also include education, rural development, co-operation, labour and employment, forests, etc.